

U.S. Embassy Quito, Ecuador
Security Message for U.S. Citizens
Planned Demonstrations on March 5-6, 2015

The U.S. Embassy in Quito would like to inform U.S. citizens of demonstrations planned for March 5-6, 2015 in Quito. According to information from the police and media reports, multiple groups will gather at Parque El Arbolito, next to Parque El Ejido, and adjacent to Avenida La Patria, at 9:00 a.m., and march to the Ecuadorian Congress and the Constitutional Court in protest of new land regulations, changes in labor laws, and issues regarding the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE) headquarters building on Avenida de los Granados. It is likely there will also be demonstrations in the area near the intersection of Avenida de los Granados and Avenida 6 de Diciembre. Ecuadorian National Police expect approximately 1,000 attendees on March 5th. The demonstrations are expected to continue on March 6th depending on the results from March 5th.

The U.S. Embassy advises U.S. citizens to avoid the downtown areas of Quito to the south of Avenida Patria and Parque El Ejido/Parque El Arbolito on March 5th and 6th. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Ecuador enroll in the Department of State's **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program**. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the **State Department's website**, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read **the Country Specific Information for Ecuador**. For additional information, please refer to our **“Traveler’s Checklist”** page. Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

Contact information:

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Dialing instructions within Ecuador:

- Within the same city and from a land line use the last seven digits.
- For calls from a mobile phone and for intercity telephone calls add the city code preceded by a 0.

Dialing instructions from the United States:

- Add the 011 prefix for an international long distance line.

For after-hours emergencies, call the phone numbers listed above for assistance.